

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in an in-person interview with Sanford Colb on September 10, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 140 should be replaced with the following form:

Apparatus for treating a fracture of a bone of a subject, comprising:
an intramedullary (IM) nail, adapted to be inserted in a medullary canal of the bone of the subject, and comprising a proximal head that defines at least one hole therethrough, the intramedullary nail having a locking surface shaped to define an indent; and

a sleeve, comprising a locking mechanism, wherein the locking mechanism comprises a depressible male coupling element, which engages the indent of the locking surface of the intramedullary nail when the sleeve is inserted in the hole so as to prevent rotational movement and both inward and outward longitudinal movement between the sleeve and the intramedullary nail.

Claim 142 and 155 are canceled.

Claim 143 should now depend from claim 140.

Claim 144 should now depend from claim 140.

Claim 145 should now depend from claim 140.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL J. ARAJ whose telephone number is (571)272-5963. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eduardo Robert can be reached on 571-272-4719. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael J Araj/
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